

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 40, 43 and 46 without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter and amend the claims as shown below. The claims, as pending in the subject application, read as follows:

1. to 7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently Amended) A printing apparatus which communicates with a computer via a network, said printing apparatus comprising:

a storage unit that stores therein a connection limitation table including connection limitation information in which discrimination information of a computer and a port number are associated with each other;

a reception unit that receives a printing request transmitted from a first computer via the network, ~~wherein the request includes a kind of data process as a requested data process to be executed;~~

an allocating unit that ~~newly allocates a port for the requested data process included in the request received by said reception unit and not allocated to external computers other than the first computer, to the first computer~~ allocates, to the first computer, a port corresponding to a printing process and not allocated to computers other than the first computer, according to the reception of the printing request by said reception unit;

a port number notifying unit that notifies the first computer of a port number of the port allocated by said allocating unit;

a registration unit that associates discrimination information of the first computer and the port number of the port allocated by said allocating unit to form connection limitation information, and registers the formed connection limitation information into the connection limitation table stored in said storage unit;

a data receiving unit that receives printing data addressed to the port allocated by said allocating unit, from an external apparatus; and

a control unit that controls, based on the formed connection limitation information registered by said registration unit, to execute the ~~requested data~~ printing process based on the printing data received by said data receiving unit in a case where the external apparatus is the first computer, and not to execute the ~~requested data~~ printing process based on the printing data received by said data receiving unit in a case where the external apparatus is an apparatus other than the first computer.

9. to 17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently Amended) A communicating method performed in a printing apparatus which communicates with a computer via a network, said method comprising:

a storage step of storing, in a storage unit of the printing apparatus, a connection limitation table including connection limitation information in which discrimination information of a computer and a port number are associated with each other;

a reception step of receiving a printing request transmitted from a first computer via the network, ~~wherein the request includes a kind of data process as a requested data process to be executed;~~

~~an allocating step of newly allocating a port for the requested data process included in the request received by said reception step and not allocated to external computers other than the first computer, to the first computer~~ allocating, to the first computer, a port corresponding to a printing process and not allocated to computers other than the first computer, according to the reception of the printing request by said reception step;

a port number notifying step of notifying the first computer of a port number of the port allocated in the allocating step;

a registration step of associating discrimination information of the first computer and the port number of the port allocated by said allocating step to form connection limitation information, and registering the formed connection limitation information into the connection limitation table stored by said storage unit;

a data receiving step of receiving printing data addressed to the port allocated by the allocating step, from an external apparatus; and

a control step of controlling, based on the formed connection limitation information registered by the registration step, to execute the ~~requested data~~ printing

process based on the printing data received by said data receiving step in a case where the external apparatus is the first computer, and controlling not to execute the ~~requested data~~ printing process based on the printing data received by said data receiving step in a case where the external apparatus is an apparatus other than the first computer.

19. to 21. (Canceled)

22. (Currently Amended) A computer readable storage medium on which is stored a computer executable control program executed by a printing apparatus which communicates with a computer via a network, wherein said control program causes a processor of the printing apparatus to execute:

a storage step ~~to store~~ of storing, in a storage unit of the printing apparatus, a connection limitation table including connection limitation information in which discrimination information of a computer and a port number are associated with each other;

a reception step ~~to receive~~ of receiving a printing request transmitted from a first computer via the network; ~~wherein the request includes a kind of data process as a requested data process to be executed;~~

an allocating step ~~to newly allocate a port for the requested data process included in the request received by said reception step and not allocated to external computers other than the first computer, to the first computer~~ of allocating, to the first computer, a port corresponding to a printing process and not allocated to computers other

than the first computer, according to the reception of the printing request by said reception step;

a port number notifying step ~~to notify~~ of notifying the first computer of a port number of the port allocated by said allocating step;

a registration step ~~to associate~~ of associating discrimination information of the first computer and the port number of the port allocated by said allocating step to form connection limitation information, and ~~[[to]]~~ registering the formed connection limitation information into the connection limitation table stored in said storage unit;

a data receiving step to receive printing data addressed to the port allocated by said allocating step, from an external apparatus; and

a control step ~~[[to]]~~ of controlling, based on the formed connection limitation information registered by said registration step, to execute the ~~requested data~~ printing process based on the printing data received by said data receiving step in a case where the external apparatus is the first computer, and ~~[[to]]~~ controlling not to execute the ~~requested data~~ printing process based on the printing data received by said data receiving step in a case where the external apparatus is an apparatus other than the first computer.

23. to 37. (Canceled)

38. (Previously Presented) A printing apparatus according to claim 8, further comprising a discriminating unit that discriminates whether or not to permit communication with the first computer,

wherein said port number notifying unit notifies the first computer of the port number allocated by the allocating unit in a case where said discriminating unit discriminates to permit the communication with the first computer.

39. (Previously Presented) A printing apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the discrimination information of the computer included in the connection limitation information stored in the connection limitation table is an IP address of the first computer.

40. (Canceled)

41. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 18, further comprising a discriminating step of discriminating whether or not to permit communication with the first computer,

wherein said port number notifying step notifies the first computer of the port number allocated by the allocating step in a case where said discriminating step discriminates to permit the communication with the first computer.

42. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 18, wherein the discrimination information of the computer included in the connection limitation information stored in the connection limitation table is an IP address of the computer.

43. (Canceled)

44. (Previously Presented) A computer readable storage medium according to claim 22, further comprising a discriminating step of discriminating whether or not to permit communication with the first computer,

wherein said port number notifying step notifies the first computer of the port number in a case where said discriminating step discriminates to permit the communication with the first computer.

45. (Previously Presented) A computer readable storage medium according to claim 22, wherein the discrimination information of the computer included in the connection limitation information stored in the connection limitation table is an IP address of the computer.

46. (Canceled)